

REMARKS

Applicant has reviewed and considered the final Office Action mailed on May 19, 2010, and the references cited therewith. Claims 21-23, 25-41, and 45-58 are currently pending in the present application. Claims 21-23, 25-28, 37-41, and 45-50 have been previously withdrawn. Claim 29 is amended, and support for the amendment may be found in at least Figs. 8, 9A, and 9B, and in the specification on page 19, lines 9-18. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Amendments to the Specification

The specification has been amended to remove several paragraphs. No new matter is added by the amendments. Applicant respectfully requests that the amendments to the specification be entered.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 29-35, 51-55, 57, and 58 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,755,807 (“Risk”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,996,128 (“Aldecoa”), U.S. Patent No. 6,142,982 (“Hunt”), and U.S. Patent No. 6,767,334 (“Randolph”).

The Examiner stated in the Response to Arguments section of the final Office Action (pg. 2) that the secondary reference “Hunt is cited to teach a venting channel connected to a chamber, thus providing a remedy to the above deficiency [referring to the deficiency in combining Risk with Randolph to teach the limitation of claim 1 which recites “a chamber having a trapping agent and a perforated gas flow channel].” The Examiner then stated that “[w]hile Figs. 8, 9A, and 9B of the current Application show a perforated tube/channel contained within an enclosed space in the device, it is noted that such limiting structural features are not articulated in the claims.” For purposes of expediting prosecution, claim 29 has been amended to recite that the flow channel is *positioned within the chamber*. The cited references alone or in combination fail to teach this limitation of claim 29. Claim 29 has further been amended to clarify that the flow channel is formed by a *flow channel tube*, that a plurality of perforations are *distributed along a*

length of the flow channel tube, and that the flow channel tube is positioned such that it is disposed on a side of the trapping agent along the length of the flow channel tube.

For at least these reasons, claim 29 is allowable over the cited combination of references. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn. Claims 30-35, 51-55, 57, and 58 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 29, and Applicant requests that the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103 also be withdrawn.

Claim 36 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Risk, Aldecoa, Hunt, and Randolph as applied to Claim 32 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,073,172 ("Fell"). For the above-stated reasons, Applicant submits that claim 29 is allowable over the cited references. Claim 36 is allowable at least by virtue of its dependency from claim 29. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 36 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn.

Claim 56 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Risk, Aldecoa, Hunt, and Randolph as applied to Claim 34 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,536,291 ("Gysling"). For the above-stated reasons, Applicant submits that claim 29 is allowable over the cited references. Claim 56 is allowable at least by virtue of its dependency from claim 29. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 56 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION


Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims 21-23, 25-41 and 45-58 are in condition for allowance and the same is respectfully requested.

This Amendment is being filed with a Request for a three (3) month extension of time. Although Applicant believes that no additional fee is due beyond those already made, to provide for the possibility that Applicant has overlooked the need for a fee of any type, including a fee for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-3140 of SNR Denton US LLP.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if, in the opinion of the Examiner, such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

Date: 11/19/10

Respectfully submitted,



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